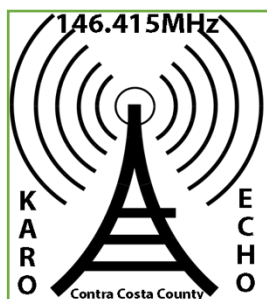


KARO ECHO Newsletter

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We're on Facebook!

[facebook.com/karoecho](https://www.facebook.com/karoecho)

Important Frequencies

KE Primary: 146.415 MHz
 KE Secondary: 146.430 MHz
 4Cs Repeater: 145.110 MHz,
 (TX down 600 with PL 82.5)

Recent Accomplishments

On Sep 30th, **17 members of KARO ECHO participated in an area-wide Simulated Emergency Test (SET)** in conjunction with a CERT drill at El Cerrito CERT Area 9. We learned a lot about propagation issues in our communities, practiced message handling and relaying, and got a chance to test our mobile and portable equipment and operating capabilities. There will be a discussion at our Oct 8th meeting, and a full report will be published on our web site.

A new Diamond X-300 antenna and Kenwood radio has been installed at Tassajara Park for emergency communications It was successfully tested Oct 3rd when BC Janes activated the radio at the EOC for a test, along with a number of other KE stations.

Another antenna had to be removed from the Colusa Circle area due to a neighbor's complaint.

An Emergency Communications Handbook has been created for deployment to all KARO ECHO emergency stations. This 3-ring binder contains the KE Field Operations Guide by NI6A, ICS-213 and 309 forms, blank paper, a list of local simplex frequencies, a maintenance log sheet, and some pencils and a sharpener. We hope to add a crib-sheet for each radio to aid in basic operations (e.g. how to change frequencies or power) so any operator could step in and activate the station if needed.

KaroEcho sponsored a FRS/GMRS practicum at Tassajara Park on Sept 22 in preparation for the Sept. 30 SET. There were 5 participants including Ken KK6SRD and Don NI6A.

Don (NI6A) conducted an Elmering/Mentoring Class on Sept 16 at his house in El Cerrito. This was a hands-on general beginners introduction for existing hams. Five students attended.

Upcoming Events

Oct 8: KARO ECHO Monthly meeting. Among other topics, we will be voting on proposed amendments to our constitution at this meeting.

Nov 2: Ham and CERT presentation for Kensington Girl Scouts

Nov 5: Ham and CERT presentation for Kensington Cub Scouts

Email info@karoecho.net if you would like to help with Girl/Cub scout demos!

Oct 4, 11, 18, 25: KARO ECHO weekly radio net on 146.415 MHz, 7pm

Late October: Don will be hosting another ham mentoring session at his house. If you are interested, email him at ni6a@arrl.net

Local Nets

The KARO ECHO Net meets on 146.415 MHz Simplex each Thursday evening immediately after the West Contra Costa RACES Net, but never before 1900 local time.

The West Contra Costa County ACS/RACES Net meets each Thursday on 145.110 MHz repeater (TX down 600 with PL 82.5) at 1845 local time.

The Contra Costa County HF EmComm/RACES Net meets each Thursday on 3893 KHz at 1835 local time

Upcoming Training Opportunities

The East Bay ARC (EBARC) will offer a class to prepare applicants for the Technician Class Amateur Radio License, starting September 7, 2018 and ending November 30. See <http://www.ebarc.org/want.html>

The class will meet each Friday from at El Sobrante United Methodist Church, on Argyle Rd. off Appian Way in El Sobrante. Textbook is The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual Revised 4th Edition. Books will be available for purchase. FCC examinations and license applications will be administered at the final class session by the EBARC Volunteer Examiners for a fee of \$15. Please register by September 7, 2018. Go to www.ko6no.com and click Register, or email: ko6no@comcast.net, or Contact Ken Fowler at 510-222-0830

The Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club (MDARC) also offers courses and exams. See <http://www.mdarc.org/activities/education/Classes> and <http://www.mdarc.org/activities/license-testing> Tests are offered at 6 pm before the MDARC regular meeting begins.

KaroEcho is currently negotiating with the City of El Cerrito (thanks to Kevin) for the possibility of obtaining a similar one day venue in El Cerrito proper that can be arranged far enough in advance to widely publicize it through local community newsletters, CERT groups, newspapers, and digital media outlets that cover our area. Recruitment as well as engaging our current and past members should be seen as an essential ingredient – a high priority if we are to reach our service potential.

Volunteers Needed

KARO ECHO is a public service organization, and there are always volunteers needed. Please step up and help us serve our community!

Girl Scout / Cub Scout demo, Nov 2, 3pm and Nov 5, 7:15pm

The Kensington Girl Scout and Cub Scouts have asked us if we could give a radio demo with emphasis on emergency preparedness. We have to come up with a 30-60 minute program for each group. Please contact Rob at k6rjm@arrl.net if you'd like to help!

Red Flag Fire Patrol 2018

With the oversight of the El Cerrito Fire Department, some KARO ECHO members have begun conducting Fire Patrols. To subscribe to this new group, send email to fire.patrol+subscribe@karoecho.net.

Weekly Radio Net Control

Volunteers are needed to lead our weekly nets so that the same people are not doing it every week. Please consider giving it a try. The net control script is on our website in the Documents section.

Become a Volunteer Examiner (VE) in the ARRL VEC program

Licensed Volunteer Examiners are needed so that we can conduct our own license exams. Go to <http://www.arrl.org/become-an-arrrl-ve> and take their free open book test to become a VE.

PR/Outreach and Recruitment Leader -- Duties:

Increase KARO-ECHO membership by recruiting new and old hams to participate in both the KARO-ECHO net and the meetings.

We also need more volunteers for our Technical Maintenance

Committee (maintain equipment installations, fix, and install new equipment) at all agency installations. Thanks to Mike, KM6CXI, Frank, K6FAC, Jamuel KM6HBO, Jerry K6KOP, Marian KC6OBK, and Hal KK6NDF who have been helping out. We can use more team members.

Digital Comms Workgroup

KaroEcho is setting up a digital packet 2m LAN to interface with a 70cm backbone similar to what is in place in Marin and Santa Clara Counties. If you are on packet or interested, please notify either K6RJM, KE6BEE, or NI6A.

"Dozens of radio amateurs helped the police and fire departments and other emergency services maintain communications in New York, Pennsylvania and Washington, DC [during 9/11], Their country asked, and they responded without reservation." Walter Cronkite

KARO ECHO

Serving the communities
of El Cerrito And
Kensington, California.

Web: www.karoecho.net /
facebook.com/karoecho

E-mail info@karoecho.net

*When all else fails, amateur
radio works!*

ABOUT KARO ECHO

KARO ECHO is the name of the Kensington Amateur Radio Operators and the El Cerrito Ham Operators mutual benefit association, an all-volunteer non-profit group of amateur radio operators providing auxiliary communications for the cities of Kensington and El Cerrito in the event of a disaster. KARO ECHO works with CERT (Community Emergency Response Teams) in Kensington and El Cerrito, but is not an official part of the CERT program.

KARO ECHO meets in person at 7:30pm on the second Monday of each month at the Kensington Community Center, 59 Arlington Ave, Kensington CA 94707 in the Upper East Room. The **next meeting is Monday, Oct 8th**.

Please see our website for more information at www.karoecho.net
You can contact the KARO ECHO board by email to info@karoecho.net

Congratulations to Ken, KK6SRD , on the acquisition of his GMRS license: WRCH945. CERT needs more GMRS operators; please consider getting your GMRS license (\$80, no test needed).

Congratulations to WA6KQB on their repeater tower upgrade

We're on the Web!
www.karoecho.net

